

NEWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.



R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1941.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

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Public Health Offices,

Westgate House,

13, Westgate Street,

Bury St. Edmunds.

June, 1942.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Newmarket,  
in the County of West Suffolk.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bocock & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable  
consideration my Sixth Annual Report as Medical Officer  
of Health being for the year ended December 31st, 1941.

On the instructions of the Minister of Health the report  
has been limited owing to the war.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bocock & Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. H. CLAYTON,  
M.B., B.S., B.H., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.,  
also Medical Officer of Health Cosford,  
Mildenhall, Thedwastre and Thingoe  
Rural Districts and

Assistant County Medical Officer of  
Health, West Suffolk.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR. F.B. Waterfall, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,  
also Surveyor & Shops Inspector and  
O/in C. Technical Services, Civil Defence.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR. H.W. Jefford, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	... 1941. 9447	1940. 9420(a) 9082+	1939. (b)9202	1938. 9207	... 1937. 9330	5,640 acres 1936. 9400
Registrar General's estimate of the resident populat- ion mid-year						
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	2802	2805	2812	2809	2795	2790
Rateable Value	£71,125	£72,000	£72,426	£72,531	£72,018	£71,889
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£267	£268	£269	£268	£268	£269

The War's curtailment of training and breeding of bloodstock has not caused unemployment, the population having been diverted to work of national importance.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births.      1941.    1940.    1939.    1938.    1937.    1936.

Legitimate(I.M.)+	Total	148	104	86		
	(I.M.)Males	74	45	35		
	" Females	74	59	51		

Illegitimate(I.M.)	Total	2	6	5		
	(I.M.)Males	1	1	2		
	" Females	1	5	3		

Legitimate(B.R.)+	Total	135	94	86	102	98	101
	(B.R.)Males	66	38	35	53	52	58
	" Females	69	56	51	49	46	43

Illegitimate (B.R.)	Total	2	6	5	8	8	5
	(B.R.)Males	1	1	2	3	3	1
	" Females	1	5	3	5	5	4

TOTAL	137	100	91	110	106	106
Males	67	39	37	56	55	59
Females	70	61	54	54	51	47

Live males per 100  
live females born      96      64      70      104      108      126

+ (a) & (B.R.) for the calculation of Birth Rates  
(b) & (I.M.) for the calculation of Death Rates or the  
incidence of notifiable diseases.

1941.    1940.    1939.    1938.    1937.    1936.

Stillbirths.

I.N. B.R.

Legitimate. Total.	3	5	4	4	2	2	3
Males	1	5	4	3	2	1	1
Females	2	-	-	1	-	1	2
Illegitimate. Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Birth Rate. Newmarket.	14.5	10.6	10.2	11.9	11.4	11.3	
England & Wales.	14.2	14.6	15.-	15.1	14.7	14.8	
Stillbirth Rate (Newmarket) per 1000 total (live and still) births.	19.6	43.5	42.1	17.9	18.5	27.5	

<u>DEATHS.</u>	Total	127	109	101	133	107	106
	Males	70	59	55	80	52	59
	Females	57	50	46	53	55	47

Death Rate per 1000 Resident Population.

Newmarket	Crude	13.4	11.6	11.0	14.4	11.5	11.3
	Corrected	+	9.6	9.7	12.7	10.1	9.9
	England & Wales	12.9	14.3	12.1	12.4	12.4	12.1

\* No corrected Death Rate for Newmarket is available as the Registrar General has been unable to provide an Areal Comparability Factor due, he states, to the magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths throughout the Country.

In 1941 there were no maternal deaths (Headings 29 & 30).

6 deaths of infants under 1 year of age occurred. (5 males and 1 female - including 1 illegitimate male).

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1937.</u>	<u>1936.</u>
All infants per 1000 live births.	40.0	45.5	54.9	54.5	28.3	36.7
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births.	33.8	37.9	46.5	49.0	30.6	37.7
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	500.0	166.7	200.0	125.0	Nil.	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	16	13	16	20	21	14
Deaths from Measles.	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea. (under 2 years).	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

On the following page is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar-General's figures. The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged list of Causes, as used in England & Wales & Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths - 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Deaths at the subjoined ages of  
"RESIDENTS" whether occurring in  
or beyond District.

Total  
= Registrar General's  
Returns.

LEADING.

LEADING.	Under 1 year.	65 and upwards.								Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
5	Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	- 1
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	3 2
8	Syphilis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	- 1
9	Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	- 1
13	Cancer of buccal cav: & oesph (M) uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	1 F
15	Cancer of Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	- 1	- 3
16	Cancer of all other sites	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2 1	5 2
18	Intracran: vasc: lesions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 3	6 6
19	Heart Disease	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3 2	14 11
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 - 1
21	Bronchitis.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 2
22	Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 - 2
23	Other Resp: Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	- - 1
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	- 2
27	Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	- 2
28	Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	- - 1
31	Premature Births.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Con. mal., birth injur:, infant diseases.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 3
35	Other Violent Causes.	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	3 3	5 1
36	All other Causes.	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	4 4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>Male</b>	5	1	1	2	5	14	42	70
		<b>Female</b>	1	1	2	1	7	14	31	57

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### (ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge, under the Directorship of Dr. A. J. Downie, carried out our bacteriological work. This service is very valuable addition to our Public Health facilities. In addition to the usual public health bacteriological examinations the Service examined 180 water samples, provided diphtheria immunisation material and measles serum, and members of this staff assisted at the diphtheria immunisation and Schick testing in addition to advising on technical questions.

- { (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.  
(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.  
(d) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.  
(e) HOSPITALS. } ) No change.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. (1) WATER.

In conjunction with representatives of the Newmarket Waterworks Company, 77 samples of water were taken from the well at Scuthfields Pumping Station and submitted for bacteriological examination. 74 of these samples were satisfactory and 3 suspicious.

The water supply is chlorinated. 83 additional samples were taken from the Company's Mains and all were found to be satisfactory.

6 samples of water were taken from private wells, to ascertain suitable supplies for domestic use. Three of these samples were found to be unsatisfactory. One of the wells serving five cottages was closed and the Water Company's supply laid on.

#### (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewerage or Sewage Disposal Works have not been extended during the year. 197,000 gallons of crude gas liquor were carted by the Newmarket Gas Company to the Sewage Disposal Works and disposed of by spreading over land on the site of old stone pits to prevent damage to the Sewage Disposal Works Plant and 2. POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

#### 3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No change from the previous year has been made. All but a few isolated properties situated away from the Sewerage System have water closets connected to the water carriage system. 136 Inspections in connection with Water Closets have been made during the year.

#### (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse collection is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector by direct labour. The Council purchased, during 1941, for this work, a modern Scammell Moving Floor Refuse Collection Vehicle. A weekly collection of house refuse and shop refuse is carried out and all materials suitable for salvage are collected separately from the house refuse, graded, baled and sold.

During the year receipts for salvage amounted to £750.  
728 lorry loads of house refuse and 880 lorry loads of trade refuse were collected and disposed of in the Council's 3-Cell Manlove Alliott Refuse Destructor.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement has been supplied by Mr. Waterfall -

Dwellinghouses.

Total number of dwellinghouse inspections made under the various Acts.	247.
Total number of re-inspections thereof	153
Number of houses inspected after infectious diseases.	4.

Drains.

New drain tests and inspections.	22.
Inspections in connection with choked drains.	38.

Various.

Slaughterhouses	338.
Visits in connection with reported nuisances	124.
Food shops, market stalls, etc.	162.
Bakehouses.	5.
Factories.	11.
Cowsheds.	6.
Dairies.	6.
Milk Samples.	16.
Water Samples.	180.
Common Lodging Houses.	6.
School Inspections.	12.
Swimming Baths.	54.
Shops.	21.
Public Houses (Sanitary Accommodation).	36.
Rats & Mice Destruction.	46.
Total number of inspections in the District	1487.

Number of Informal Notices given in 1941.	86.
Outstanding Informal Notices @ 1st January, 1941.	27.
Outstanding Informal Notices @ 31st December, 1941.	24.

Number of Statutory Notices served in 1941.	3.
Outstanding Statutory Notices @ 1st January, 1941.	19.
Outstanding Statutory Notices @ 31st December, 1941.	2.

The following is a classified list of the housing defects and nuisances abated during the year:-

Dampness	5.
Roofs repaired	9.
Defective walls & ceilings repaired	11.
Stairs repaired.	7.
Windows repaired.	20.
Rain water pipes repaired & renewed.	8.
Defective W.C. pedestals renewed & repaired.	10.
New dustbins installed.	13.
Insanitary houses cleansed.	7.
Drain stoppages.	38.
Sinks installed.	11.
Stoves repaired.	11.
Floors repaired.	7.
Yard paving repaired	3.
Doors and frames repaired.	5.
Stoves repaired or renewed.	11.
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or renewed.	10.

175.

Factory Act, 1937.

The following table summarises the number of inspections made under the Factory Act, 1937, the defects found and the action taken thereon:-

	Inspect- ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	5	-	-
Factories without " "	5	-	-
Other Premises	1	1	-
	11	1	-

Defects found in Factories.

Want of cleanliness in one was found and remedied without needing reference to H.M. Inspector.

(iv) SHOPS & OFFICES.

21 inspections relating to the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, were made. Notice to provide suitable and sufficient means of heating was served in one case and remedied.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

No applications for Licence to occupy a site were made during the year.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Action has been necessary in respect of a Laundry at which the Mechanical Stoker was defective. The nuisance was remedied after the Mechanical Stoker had been repaired.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS.

The Council took over on lease, in July, the management of a privately owned modern public swimming bath in the town. The water is obtained from the public water supply, is filtered, heated and chlorinated by a suitable plant. Frequent visits are made to ascertain that due regard is paid to the cleanliness of the baths, cubicles and towels, also costumes and sanitary conveniences.

14 water samples were taken from the bath. Shortly after the Council opened the bath some delay was experienced in obtaining Chloros consequently an algae growth developed. This was speedily remedied on receipt of the Chloros and thereafter all the water samples analysed proved the water to be quite satisfactory.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Disinfestation of ten Council Houses has been carried out by Council workmen using "Fuminol" applied by spray and one Council house was disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide by Associated Fumigators Ltd.

Six Private houses have been disinfested by Council workmen using "Fuminol" and five Private houses were disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide by Associated Fumigators Ltd.

4. SCHOOLS.

During 12 inspections the sanitary and washing accommodation was examined.

S E C T I O N D.

H O U S I N G.

=====

1. (1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	247
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	400
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	74
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice.	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	30
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
(a) There were no proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11,	
(b) 12, 13 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936, nor Proceedings under	
(d) Public Health Acts.	
4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.	
(a)(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	35
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	11
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil

S E C T I O N E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

16 samples of milk taken were submitted for bacteriological examination 4 of which were found to

be unsatisfactory. Remedial measures were taken with the producers concerned.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All the meat for the District is slaughtered at the Government Central Slaughterhouse in the town. The inspection of meat involved a considerable part of the Sanitary Inspector's time, including evenings and weekends.

Particulars of Condemned Meat etc.

Total Number of carcasses inspected	7548
Total weight of condemned meat etc.	20241 lbs.

Beasts.

Whole carcasses	21	Mesenteric Fats	32
Lungs	173	Kidneys	2
Livers	139	Tongues	13
Heads & Tongues	91	Udders	Nil
Spleens	11	Skirts	39
Portions of beef	1159 lbs.	Hearts	12
" " Liver	258 lbs.		

Calves.

Whole carcasses	1	Lungs	2
Portions of veal	83 lbs.	Livers	2

Sheep and Lambs.

Whole carcasses	8
Portions of Mutton	6
Plucks	8
Livers	15

Pigs.

Whole carcasses	11	Plucks	15
Portions of Pork	61	Heads	46
Livers	22		

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves. and Lambs	Sheep Pigs.
Number killed	1009	527	127	4883
Number inspected	985	523	126	4743

(All Diseases except  
Tuberculosis)

Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	1	4	13
---------------------------	---	---	---	---	----

Carcass of which some part of organ was condemned	124	52	5	27	32
---	-----	----	---	----	----

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	12.7%	10.5%	4.8%	.7%	3.8%
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CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED(Contd.)

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	12	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part of organ was condemned	237	128	1	-	52
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	24.86%	26.76%	0.79%	-	4.44%

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

774 tins Condensed Milk.

534 tins Fruit.

32 lbs. Mincemeat.

10 lbs. Bacon.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC. No change.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

The Council have made arrangements for dealing with Gas Contamination of Foodstuffs and suitable premises at Coronation Stables have been earmarked and adapted to deal with contaminated food. A Decontamination Squad has been trained and consists of five males and five females.

(e) NUTRITION.

After considering the adoption of several premises for use as a British Restaurant the Council were fortunate in acquiring disused school premises which, after alteration, conversion and decoration, made very useful premises to enable the opening of a British Restaurant. The Restaurant was opened in November and daily approximately 350 meals are served to adults and school children at 9d. and 5d. per meal respectively. Only midday meals, consisting of meat, two vegetables and a sweet, are served at present.

(f) SHELL-FISH(Molluscan) No change.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1940.

Total cases noti- fied	Age in Years.											Cases admit- ted to Hospi- tal	Deaths
	-1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45-65		
Scarlet Fever.	5	-	1	1	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	3	
Whooping Cough.	5	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Diphtheria	3				1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	1
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Measles.	389	8	18	23	32	43	195	48	10	10	2	-	
Pneumonia	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	2
Puerperal	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	
Pyrexia													
	410	10	20	24	35	41	200	49	12	12	3	3	10
													3

Preventive measures against the spread of infectious and other diseases during 1941 included the medical examination of evacuees arriving in the town, diphtheria immunisation, the issue of measles serum and measures for the detection and treatment of scabies.

One unimmunised evacuee child was detected on arrival in Newmarket to have diphtheria - fortunately no spread occurred.

The only other two cases of diphtheria during the year were an unimmunised lady of 10 years and an unimmunised school girl aged 9 years. Unfortunately this 9 year old girl succumbed to the disease.

With the complete and valued co-operation, assistance and advice of the Head teachers, Dr. H. Roger, County Medical Officer of Health and his staff, and Dr. A.J. Downie, Director, Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, and his staff, the diphtheria immunisation commenced on the last day of October, 1940, was continued. Whilst regretting that all children in the town were not presented for protection it was a satisfaction to know that parents responded beyond expectations so that by the end of 1941

262	children under 5 years of age (estimated 44%)
995	" 5 years or more but under 15 years (estimated 77%)

had been immunised by the Local Authority. The percentage protected is even higher than these figures suggest because several additional children were immunised by their private practitioners and many of the London children now living in the town had previously been immunised. Schick testing of a representative proportion showed that probably all the children immunised by the Local Authority were rendered Schick Negative.

The above table records an epidemic of 389 cases of measles occurred in 1941. These were of a mild nature and no fatalities occurred. Where young children were immediate contacts Measles Serum was made available to practitioners for the children's protection.

Scabies throughout the year increased and was not confined to evacuees nor yet to school children. Cases are brought to notice by private practitioners, but more usually by the school nurses and Health Visitors of the County Medical Officer's staff. Throughout the year Dr. Roger greatly eased the position by treating cases from the town in County Council premises and by members of his staff.

The increased incidence throughout the County, however, by the end of the year was overburdening his facilities consequently, after consultation with him and Medical Officers of adjoining Districts it was decided, in the last week of 1941, to recommend that a Treatment Centre be established by the District Council of Newmarket.

### T U B E R C U L O S I S .

#### New cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
4 yrs.	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	3	-	-	1	2	-	-
35 - 45	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	5	3	1	-	3	2	-	-

The 40 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1941, together with the corresponding figures for 1940, 1939, 1938, 1937 and 1936 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
31.12.41.	16	10	7	7	23	17
31.12.40.	16	8	7	6	23	14
31.12.39.	19	9	8	9	27	18
31.12.38.	19	9	10	9	29	18
31.12.37.	21	9	11	9	32	18
31.12.36.	20	8	10	8	30	16